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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1901

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 000159

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STATE FOR EEB/ESC/IEC GRIFFIN

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [ENRG](#) [SENV](#) [ABER](#) [ABUD](#) [LA](#)  
SUBJECT: LAOS INPUT FOR EISA REPORTS

REF: STATE 10743

1.--A. The economic officer in the two-officer pol/econ section covers energy matters. Three locally engaged staff members (LES) also support the section.  
--B. 1 economic officer: 10 percent of the time; 1 LES: 10 percent of the time.  
--C. The econ officer covers the economic/commercial portfolio, the Environment, Science, Technology, and Health (ESTH) portfolio, USAID, humanitarian assistance, and unexploded ordnance. The chief energy topic is hydropower, for which the econ officer maintains contact with a wide range of private and public sector companies and government offices. The impact of hydropower on the environment, as well as the mechanics of funding dam construction, selling power to foreign governments, and commercial opportunities for U.S. firms, are also covered by the econ officer. An LES staff member assists the econ officer with the above and has personal relations and knowledge of many individuals, both Lao and foreign, who work in the sector. The personal relations are very important for accessing the correct people within the Lao government.  
--D. 1) personnel--\$15,000  
2) programs--0

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